

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

MAREIKE KLEE ET AL

PHD 99,008

Serial No.

Group Art Unit:

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

Examiner:

BREAKDOWN-RESISTANT THIN FILM CAPACITOR WITH INTERDIGITATED
STRUCTURE

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination please amend the above-identified case as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before line 1, insert the following centered heading

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 2, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following centered heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--;

Page 3, delete lines 5 and 6 in their entirety;

between lines 6 and 7, insert the following centered heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING--;

after line 7, insert as a new paragraph:

--In the drawing:--;

line 7, change "being" to --is--;

line 9, change "being" to --is--;

between lines 10 and 11, insert the following centered heading:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--;

after line 11, insert as a new paragraph:

--The invention will not be described in greater detail with reference to the figures of the drawings.--.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Delete the abstract in its entirety and replace with the following:

--ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a thin film capacitor with a carrier substrate, at least two interdigitated electrodes, and a dielectric. A staggered arrangement of at least one interdigitated electrode below the dielectric with respect to an interdigitated electrode above the dielectric results in a breakdown-resistant thin film capacitor which can be manufactured in the same production process as a standard monolayer capacitor.--.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to add headings and in other minor respects. The abstract has been amended to conform to U.S. practice.

An early allowance of the claims and case is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By Norman N. Spain
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Consulting Patent Attorney
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Breakdown-resistant thin film capacitor with interdigitated structure.

The invention relates to a thin film capacitor which comprises a carrier substrate, at least two interdigitated electrodes, and at least one dielectric.

Dielectric materials with high dielectric constant values ($\epsilon_r > 50$) are used for achieving high capacitance values in capacitors of small dimensions. Dielectrics with $\epsilon_r > 50$

- 5 at dielectric thicknesses of 50 nm to 2 μm are made by means of thin film processes in the manufacture of thin film capacitors. An inexpensive method which is used for depositing thin layers with $\epsilon_r > 50$ is a wet chemical thin film method such as, for example, the sol-gel method. The lower electrode in a thin film capacitor is made of a non-noble metal such as, for example, aluminum or copper, or a noble metal, for example silver, a silver alloy, or platinum.
- 10 For the upper electrode, noble metals such as, for example, platinum, silver, silver alloys, or NiCr/gold are used, as for the lower electrode, or alternatively non-noble metals such as, for example, aluminum, nickel, or copper. These are applied by means of thin film processes such as, for example, sputtering or chemical deposition from the gas phase. The electrodes are structured by means of lithographical processes in combination with wet or dry etching steps.
- 15 Suitable carrier substrate materials are Si wafers, glass or ceramic materials. A protective layer is used for protecting the capacitor construction, for example an organic layer and/or an inorganic layer provided in a printing process or a thin film process. The capacitors are further provided with current supply contacts, either individually or in rows.

This state of the art technology is quite capable of producing inexpensive thin

20 film capacitors which comply with standard specifications. The layer thicknesses of approximately one micrometer, however, do not suffice if higher operating voltages U_{rated} (50 V, 100 V and higher) are to be accommodated in conjunction with increased life requirements for low capacitance values of a few picofarad in high-frequency applications.

A higher breakdown resistance is found in so-called interdigitated capacitors

25 whose electrodes have a finger-like arrangement. The finger shapes of these interdigitated electrodes and their interlocking arrangement together with the superimposed dielectric form the actual capacitor. The capacitance value of such an arrangement is a function of the finger interspacing, the length of the overlaps, the thickness of the dielectric, the dielectric constant values of the substrate and of the dielectric, and the thickness of the electrodes. The finger

interspacing in fact determines the breakdown resistance and the resulting admissible operating voltage of the capacitor type.

A capacitor arrangement with interdigitated electrodes is known from publication no. 07283076 A from "Patent Abstracts of Japan", wherein several interdigitated electrode layers are present one above the other so as to enhance the capacitance value still further. The interdigitated electrodes of a capacitor unit all lie in one plane, and a dielectric is present between every two adjoining electrode levels. A disadvantage of the arrangement of the electrodes in one plane is that the full thickness of the dielectric is not utilized for contributing to the capacitance of the capacitor.

The invention has for its object to develop an improved thin film capacitor with interdigitated electrodes and a high breakdown resistance.

This object is achieved in a thin film capacitor comprising a carrier substrate, at least two interdigitated electrodes, and at least one dielectric, which is characterized in that at least one interdigitated electrode is arranged below the dielectric and at least one interdigitated electrode is arranged above the dielectric.

The layers of the dielectric contribute to the capacitance behavior of the capacitor when the interdigitated electrodes are positioned above and below the dielectric.

A preferred embodiment provides that the interdigitated electrode above the dielectric is positioned staggered with respect to the interdigitated electrode below the dielectric.

The staggered arrangement achieves that the dielectric is permeated more evenly by the electric field, and accordingly higher capacitance values can be attained, all other parameters remaining the same.

A further preferred embodiment is characterized in that the dielectric comprises a plurality of layers.

It is possible through the use of multiple layers, for example double, triple, or quadruple layers, to compensate for the unfavorable temperature behavior of some dielectric materials and to improve the temperature dependence of the capacitance value of the thin film capacitor.

In a preferred embodiment, the dielectric comprises a ferroelectric ceramic material.

Ferroelectric ceramic materials have a high relative dielectric constant ϵ_r and allow for high capacitance values in small dimensions.

It is furthermore preferred that a barrier layer is provided on the carrier substrate.

Reactions with the dielectric or short-circuits can be avoided by means of a barrier layer in the case of substrates having a rough surface, for example Al_2O_3 .

5 The invention will be explained in more detail below with reference to a Figure and two embodiments, with:

Fig. 1 being a diagram of the construction of a thin film capacitor with two interdigitated electrodes, and

10 Fig. 2 being a diagram of the construction of a thin film capacitor with three interdigitated electrodes.

In Fig. 1, a thin film capacitor comprises a carrier substrate 1 which is made, for example, from a ceramic material, a glass-ceramic material, a glass material, or silicon. A barrier layer, for example made from SiO_2 , TiO_2 , Al_2O_3 or ZrO_2 , is provided on the carrier substrate 1. On this barrier layer 2 there is a first interdigitated electrode 4 which comprises,

15 for example, Al,

Al doped with Cu,

Cu,

W,

Pt,

20 Ni,

Pd,

Pd/Ag,

TiW/Al,

Ti/Pt,

25 Ti/Ag,

Ti/Ag/TiIr,

Ti/ $\text{Ag}_x\text{Pt}_{1-x}$ ($0 \leq x \leq 1$)

Ti/Ag/ $\text{Pt}_x\text{Al}_{1-x}$ ($0 \leq x \leq 1$),

Ti/ $\text{Ag}_x\text{Pt}_{1-x}/\text{Ir}$ ($0 \leq x \leq 1$),

30 Ti/Ag/(Ir/IrO_x) ($0 \leq x \leq 2$),

Ti/Ag/ $\text{Ru}_x\text{Pt}_{1-x}$ ($0 \leq x \leq 1$),

Ti/ $\text{Pt}_x\text{Al}_{1-x}/\text{Ag}/\text{Pt}_y\text{Al}_{1-y}$ ($0 \leq x \leq 1$, $0 \leq y \leq 1$),

Ti/Ag/ $\text{Pt}_y(\text{RhO}_x)_{1-y}$ ($0 \leq x \leq 2$, $0 \leq y \leq 1$),

Ti/Ag/Pt_xRh_{1-x} (0 ≤ x ≤ 1),

Ti/Ag_xPt_{1-x}/(Ir/IrO_y) (0 ≤ x ≤ 1, 0 ≤ y ≤ 2),

Ti/Ag_xPt_{1-x}/Pt_yAl_{1-y} (0 ≤ x ≤ 1, 0 ≤ y ≤ 1),

Ti/Ag/Ti,

5 Ti/Ni/ITO or

NiCrAl/Ni, Ni_xCr_yAl_z/Ni (0 ≤ x ≤ 1, 0 ≤ y ≤ 1, 0 ≤ z ≤ 1).

A dielectric 3 having a high relative dielectric constant $\epsilon_r > 20$ is provided on the lower interdigitated electrode 4. The dielectric 3 may comprise, for example, Pb(Zr_xTi_{1-x})O₃ (0 ≤ x ≤ 1) with and without excess lead,

10 (Pb,Ba)(Mg_{1/3}Nb_{2/3})_x(Zn_{1/3}Nb_{2/3})_yTi_zO₃ (0 ≤ x ≤ 1, 0 ≤ y ≤ 1, 0 ≤ z ≤ 1),

Ba_{1-x}Sr_xTiO₃ (0 ≤ x ≤ 1),

Pb_{1-0.5y}La_y(Zr_xTi_{1-x})O₃ (0 ≤ x ≤ 1, 0 ≤ y ≤ 0.2),

SrTi_{1-x}Zr_xO₃ (0 ≤ x ≤ 1),

(Zr,Sn)TiO₄,

15 Ta₂O₅ with Al₂O₃ dopants,

Pb_{1-0y}La_yTiO₃ (0 ≤ y ≤ 0.3, 1.3 ≤ x ≤ 1.5),

(Pb,Ca)TiO₃,

BaTiO₃ with and without dopants,

Ba₂Ti₉O₂₀,

20 CaSm₂Ti₅O₁₄,

TiZr_{0.8}Sn_{0.2}O₄,

Ba₂Ti_{8.53}Zr_{0.50}Mn_{0.01}O₂₀,

SrZr_xTi_{1-x}O₃ (0 ≤ x ≤ 1) with and without Mn dopants,

BaZr_xTi_{1-x}O₃ (0 ≤ x ≤ 1),

25 Ba_{1-y}Sr_yZr_xTi_{1-x}O₃ (0 ≤ x ≤ 1, 0 ≤ y ≤ 1),

SrTiO₃ doped with, for example, La, Nb, Fe or Mn,

(BaTiO₃)_{0.18-0.27} + (Nd₂O₃)_{0.316-0.355} + (TiO₂)_{0.276-0.355} + (Bi₂O₃)_{0.025-0.081} + x ZnO,

CaZrO₃,

CaTiO₃ + CaTiSiO₅,

30 (Sr,Ca)(Ti,Zr)O₃,

(Sr,Ca,M)(Ti,Zr)O₃ (M= Mg or Zn),

(Sr,Ca,Cu,Mn,Pb)TiO₃ + Bi₂O₃,

BaO-TiO₂-Nd₂O₃-Nb₂O₅,

(Ba,Ca)TiO₃ + Nb₂O₅, Co₂O₃, MnO₂,
 TiO₂,
 BaO-PbO-Nd₂O₃-TiO₂,
 Ba(Zn,Ta)O₃,

5 BaZrO₃,
 Nd₂Ti₂O₇,
 PbNb_x((Zr_{0.6}Sn_{0.4})_{1-y}Ti_y))_{1-x}O₃ (0 ≤ x ≤ 0.9, 0 ≤ y ≤ 1),
 Pb(Mg_{1/3}Nb_{2/3})O₃]_x-[PbTiO₃]_{1-x} (0 ≤ x ≤ 1),
 (Pb,Ba,Sr)(Mg_{1/3}Nb_{2/3})_xTi_y(Zn_{1/3}Nb_{2/3})_{1-x-y}O₃ (0 ≤ x ≤ 1, 0 ≤ y ≤ 1), x + y ≤ 1)

10 a) Pb(Mg_{1/2}W_{1/2})O₃
 b) Pb(Fe_{1/2}Nb_{1/2})O₃
 c) Pb(Fe_{2/3}W_{1/3})O₃
 d) Pb(Ni_{1/3}Nb_{2/3})O₃
 e) Pb(Zn_{1/3}Nb_{2/3})O₃

15 f) Pb(Sc_{1/2}Ta_{1/2})O₃
 as well as combinations of the compounds a) to f) with PbTiO₃ and Pb(Mg_{1/3}Nb_{2/3})O₃.
 An upper interdigitated electrode 5 is provided on the dielectric 3, which electrode comprises,
 for example, Al,
 Al doped with Cu,

20 Cu,
 W,
 Pt,
 Ni,
 Pd,

25 Pd/Ag,
 TiW/Al,
 Ti/Pt,
 Ti/Ag,
 Ti/Ag/TiIr,

30 Ti/Ag_xPt_{1-x} (0 ≤ x ≤ 1),
 Ti/Ag/Pt_xAl_{1-x} (0 ≤ x ≤ 1),
 Ti/Ag_xPt_{1-x}/Ir (0 ≤ x ≤ 1),
 Ti/Ag/(Ir/IrO_x) (0 ≤ x ≤ 2),

Ti/Ag/Ru_xPt_{1-x} (0 ≤ x ≤ 1),
 Ti/Pt_xAl_{1-x}/Ag/Pt_yAl_{1-y} (0 ≤ x ≤ 1, 0 ≤ y ≤ 1),
 Ti/Ag/Pt_y(RhO_x)_{1-y} (0 ≤ x ≤ 2, 0 ≤ y ≤ 1),
 Ti/Ag/Pt_xRh_{1-x} (0 ≤ x ≤ 1),
 5 Ti/Ag_xPt_{1-x}/(Ir/IrO_y) (0 ≤ x ≤ 1, 0 ≤ y ≤ 2),
 Ti/Ag_xPt_{1-x}/Pt_yAl_{1-y} (0 ≤ x ≤ 1, 0 ≤ y ≤ 1),
 Ti/Ag/Ti,
 Ti/Ni/ITO or
 Ni_xCr_yAl_z/Ni (0 ≤ x ≤ 1, 0 ≤ y ≤ 1, 0 ≤ z ≤ 1)

10 Alternatively, the dielectric 3 may comprise multiple layers, for example double, triple, or quadruple layers.

In addition, a multiple layer structure may be implemented with three or more interdigitated electrodes in staggered arrangement.

Fig. 2 shows such a multiple layer arrangement with three staggered 15 interdigitated electrodes 41, 42, and 51, and two dielectrics 31 and 32. In this embodiment of the thin film capacitor according to the invention, a first dielectric 31 is disposed over a first interdigitated electrode 41, over this a second interdigitated electrode 51 covered by a second dielectric layer 32, and a third interdigitated electrode 42. The first interdigitated electrode 41 and the third interdigitated electrode 42 are connected in parallel.

20 Embodiments of the invention which represent examples of how the invention may be realized in practice will now be explained in detail below.

Embodiment 1:

A carrier substrate 1 of glass is provided with a barrier layer 2 of TiO₂. A lower 25 interdigitated electrode 4 of Ti/Pt is provided on this barrier layer 2. A dielectric 3 of BaTiO₃ is disposed over the lower interdigitated electrode 4. An upper interdigitated electrode 5 of Pt is provided on said dielectric 3.

Embodiment 2:

A carrier substrate 1 of glass is provided with a barrier layer 2 of TiO₂. A lower interdigitated electrode 4 of Ti/Pt is provided on this barrier layer 2. A dielectric 3 of 30 Pb(Zr_{0.53}Ti_{0.47})O₃ doped with lanthanum is disposed over the lower interdigitated electrode 4. An upper interdigitated electrode 5 of Pt is provided on said dielectric 3.

Standard monolayer capacitors are also manufactured in the same manufacturing process. The results of three tests are summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Standard Monolayer Capacitor with 20 V/ μm and 13 nF/mm²

5

	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Average
Rel. Dielectric Constant ϵ_r	1120	1060	1070	1083
Dielectric [μm]	0.754	0.784	0.702	0.747
Op. Voltage U_{rated} [V]				15

Table 2: Parameters for the interdigitated electrodes

Number of Fingers:	12
Number of Gaps:	11
Length of Finger Overlap [μm]:	850
Total Overlap Length [μm]:	9350

10 Table 3 shows the average capacitance values C and the operating voltages U_{rated} for thin film capacitors with interdigitated electrodes (parameters in accordance with Table 2) and a lanthanum-doped PZT dielectric (layer thicknesses in accordance with Table 1).

Table 3: Average Capacitance Values C of Thin Film Capacitors with Interdigitated

15 Electrodes and Lanthanum-Doped PZT Dielectric Layers.

Finger Interspacing [μm]	Capacitance C [pF]	Op. Voltage U_{rated} [V]
10	6.3	200
5	10.8	100
3	17.5	60

CLAIMS:

1. A thin film capacitor comprising a carrier substrate (1), at least two interdigitated electrodes (4, 5), and at least one dielectric (3), characterized in that at least one interdigitated electrode (4) is arranged below the dielectric (3) and at least one interdigitated electrode (5) is arranged above the dielectric (3).

5

2. A thin film capacitor as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the interdigitated electrode (5) above the dielectric (3) is positioned in a staggered arrangement with respect to the interdigitated electrode (4) below the dielectric (3).

10 3. A thin film capacitor as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the dielectric (3) comprises a plurality of layers.

4. A thin film capacitor as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the dielectric (3) comprises a ferroelectric ceramic material.

15

5. A thin film capacitor as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a barrier layer (2) is provided on the carrier substrate (1).

ABSTRACT:

The invention relates to a thin film capacitor with a carrier substrate (1), at least two interdigitated electrodes (4, 5), and a dielectric (3). A staggered arrangement of at least one interdigitated electrode (4) below the dielectric (3) with respect to an interdigitated electrode (5) above the dielectric (3) results in a breakdown-resistant thin film capacitor which can be manufactured in the same production process as a standard monolayer capacitor.

5 can be manufactured in the same production process as a standard monolayer capacitor.

Fig. 1

1/2

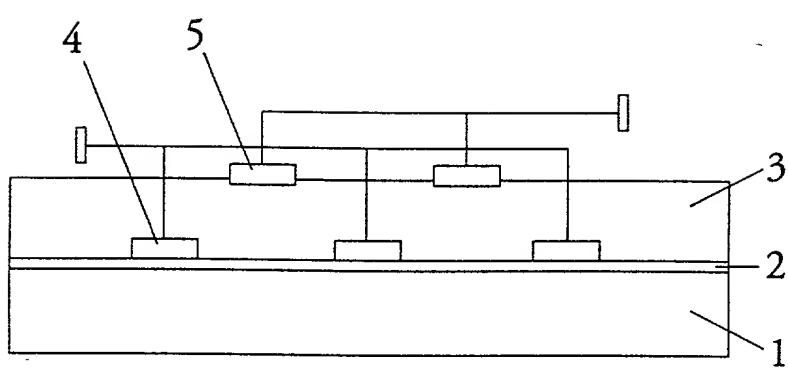


FIG. 1

2/2

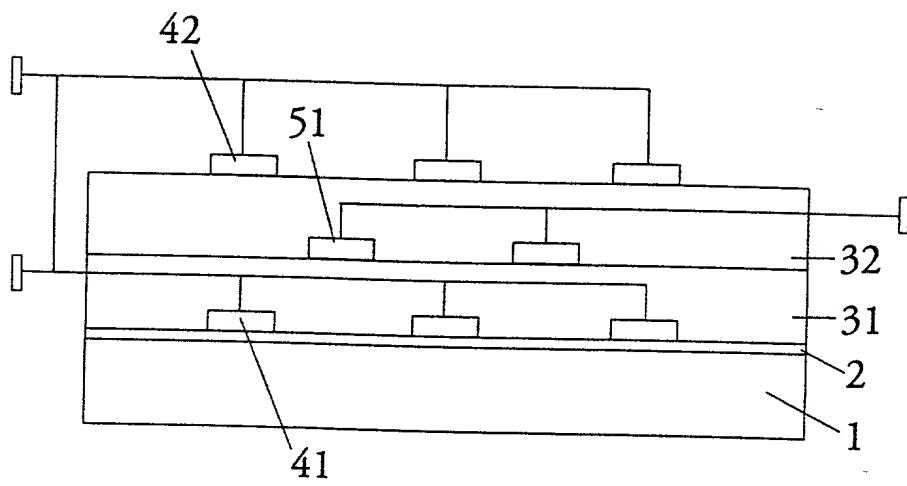


FIG. 2

DECLARATION and POWER OF ATTORNEY

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.:
PHD 99.008 US

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

"Breakdown-resistant thin film capacitor with interdigitated structure"

the specification of which (check one)

is attached hereto.

was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by the amendment(s) referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

COUNTRY	APP. NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (DATE, MONTH, YEAR)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119
Germany	19902029.9	20 January 1999	YES

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35 United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

PRIOR UNITED STATES APPLICATION(S)

APPLICATION SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	STATUS (PATENTED, PENDING, ABANDONED)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (list name and registration number)

Algy Tamoshunas, Reg. No. 27,677
Jack E. Haken, Reg. No. 26,902

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO: Corporate Patent Counsel; U.S. Philips Corporation; 580 white Plains Road; Tarrytown, NY 10591	DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO: (name and telephone No.) (914) 332-0222
--	--

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--------	-----------------------

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Post Office Address	Street	City	State of Country	Zip Code
Dated:		Inventor's Signature:		
Full Name of Inventor	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	
Residence & Citizenship	City	State of Foreign Country	Country of Citizenship	
Post Office Address	Street	City	State of Country	Zip Code
Dated:		Inventor's Signature:		
Full Name of Inventor	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	
Residence & Citizenship	City	State of Foreign Country	Country of Citizenship	
Post Office Address	Street	City	State of Country	Zip Code

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APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATES

Siri:

The undersigned Attorney of Record hereby revokes all prior appointments (if any) of Associate Attorney(s) or Agent(s) in the above-captioned case and appoints:

NORMAN N. SPAIN (Registration No. 17,846)

c/o U.S. PHILIPS CORPORATION, Intellectual Property Department, 580
White Plains Road, Tarrytown, New York 10591, his Associate
Attorney(s)/Agent(s) with all the usual powers to prosecute the
above-identified application and any division or continuation
thereof, to make alterations and amendments therein, and to
transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected
therewith.

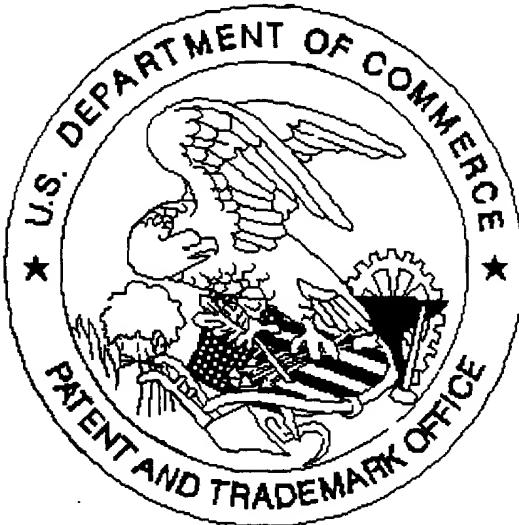
ALL CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING THIS APPLICATION AND THE LETTERS PATENT WHEN GRANTED SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE UNDERSIGNED ATTORNEY OF RECORD.

~~Respectfully,~~

Algy Tamoshunas, Reg. 27,677
Attorney of Record

Dated at Tarrytown, New York
this 11TH day of JANUARY, 2000.

United States Patent & Trademark Office
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